more competitive in the world market in terms of both quality and prices.

(15) Encouragement and support will continue to be given to the Central Silk Board and the State Governments for rapid development of sericulture industry in all parts of the country.

(16) Programmes would be undertaken to augment the indigenous raw wool production in terms of both quality and quantity.

(17) The knitting and apparel manufacturing sectors contribute significantly to employment generation and export earnings besides meeting the domestic demand fo clothing. The Government shall pursue policies for strengthening, modernising and developing these sectors.

Tobacco purchased by Tobacco Board on auction

1006. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of tobacco purchased by the Tobacco Board on auction platforms during the last three years and how the same was disposed of;

(b) what was the profit/loss to the Board in this operation;

(c) whether any amount of the profit was distributed amongst the tobacco growers; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) Tobacco Board did not purchase any tobacco on auction Platforms during 1988, 1989 and 1990.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Incentives to exporters with nil import content

1007. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian exporters are being offered various incentives to import goods against their exports;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are many exporters of manufactured goods whose import content is nil; and

(c) if so, when incentives are being offered to such exporters?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) to (c) The registered exporters are allowed by way of replenishment, the essential inputs required in the manufacture of the products exported and to allow flexibility to enable diversification of the export products. The replenishment licences are issued irrespective of the fact that the manufactured product has any import content, provided the item of export is not covered by the list of export products ineligible for import replenishment licences, as specified in the Import Policy.

Top ten exporters in the country

1008. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the top ten exporters in the country whose exports exceeded Rs. 50 crore in 1989-90 but whose net foreign exchange earnings were less than Rs. 50 crore in that year; and

(b) what are the details of the top ten exporters in the country whose exports exceeded Rs. 50 crore in 1989-90 but whose net foreign exchange earnings were nil during that year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI